PATENT SPECIFICATION 1 326 711

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

1 326 711

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(54) ROCKING TOYS

(71) We, PRICE BROTHERS & Co. LIMITED, a British Company of Staplegrove Mills, Wellington, Somerset, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to rocking toys.

An object of the invention is to provide a rocking toy which can be used safely even by very young children.

According to the present invention there is provided a rocking toy a body formed entirely of resilient foam material having a base surface of arcuate shape upon which the body rests, the body being capable of stable rocking movement when its base surface rests on a substantially flat surface, and having an upper surface formed with a central arcuate recessed portion curved in the same sense as the base surface, said arcuate recessed portion forming in effect a saddle.

Since the toy is formed entirely of foam material it presents no hard or sharp edges or surfaces and is inherently safe for children. The toy is also considerably lighter than conventional rocking toys.

The body may comprise a single block of resilient foam. Alternatively the body may be formed by two substantially identical blocks hinged together along an upper surface, the two blocks being face-to-face in normal use of the rocking toy, so that the body can be opened out to form a flat mattress or cushion.

The recessed portion of the upper surface of the body may be adapted to interlock with a complementary upper surface of another foam body having an arcuate base surface, so that the two toys when interlocked form a resilient mattress, the arcuate base surfaces of the two interlocked foam bodies forming a substantially continuous edge surface of the mattress.

The foam body may have an outer covering of waterproof sheet material or fabric.

The resilient foam material is conveniently polyether or polyester foam.

The invention will now be described, merely by way of example, with reference to the drawings accompanying the Provisional Specification, in which:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a rocking toy according to one embodiment;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a rocking toy according to another embodiment of the invention, in its normal condition of use;

Figure 3 is a perspective view of the toy in Figure 2 opened out for use as a couch;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of two complementary rocking toys according to the invention; and

Figure 5 illustrates the two toys of Figure 4 interlocked to form a mattress.

Corresponding reference numerals are used to designate corresponding parts in the drawings.

Figure 1 shows a rocking toy in the shape of a fish comprising a body formed by a single block 1 of polyurethane foam. The block 1 is provided with a waterproof washable cover 2 of plastics (Polyvinylchloride) sheet having welded seams, making the toy suitable for outdoor play. The block 1 may alternatively have a conventional fabric cover.

The block 1 has a base surface 3 of arcuate shape upon which the body rests. The body is capable of stable rocking movement when it rests with its base surface 3 on a flat surface, as shown. The upper surface of the block 1 is formed with a central arcuate portion 4, curved in the same sense as the base surface 3, and forming in effect a saddle.

A tail 5 of plastics foam is stuck to the block 1 at one end thereof, or alternatively may be formed integrally with the block 1 or otherwise attached to the block 1.

The rocking toy shown in Figures 2 and 3 is in the shape of an animal, and has an arcuate base surface 3 on which the toy rocks when in use, as shown in Figure 2, and

an upper arcuate portion acting as a saddle.

In this embodiment, the body of the toy is formed of two identical polyurethane foam blocks 1, 1^1 hinged together along their upper surfaces. The blocks 1, 1^1 are interconnected by two hinges 6 arranged in line on opposite sides of the arcuate portion 4, each hinge 6 comprising a fabric or plastics strip stuck to the adjoining upper surfaces of the blocks 1, 1^1.

The body of the toy can be opened out by movement of the blocks 1 and 1^1 about the hinges 6 to form a flat annular couch, as shown in Figure 3.

Each of the blocks 1 and 1^1 has a cover 2, 2^1 of waterproof sheet material.

Figures 4 and 5 illustrate two rocking toys, each formed from a single block 1 of resilient plastics foam as described with reference to Figure 1. The two foam blocks 1 have arcuate base surfaces 3 and complementary upper surfaces 7, 8 such that when laid on their sides, the two blocks 1, 1^1 can be interlocked, as shown in Figure 5, to form a substantially flat circular mattress, the arcuate base surfaces 3 forming a continuous edge surface of the mattress.

In any of the illustrated embodiments of the invention, each foam block 1 may have, instead of a separate cover, a relatively non-porous surface layer or skin formed, for example, by spraying plastics material (for example, P.V.C.) on to the surface of the foam.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A rocking toy comprising a body formed entirely of resilient foam material having a base surface of arcuate shape upon which the body rests, the body being capable of stable rocking movement when its base surface rests on a substantially flat surface, and having an upper surface formed with a central arcuate recessed portion curved in the same sense as the base surface, said arcuate recessed portion forming in effect a saddle.

2. A rocking toy according to Claim 1 in which the body comprises a single block of resilient foam.

3. A rocking toy according to Claim 1 in which the body is formed by two substantially identical blocks hinged together along an upper surface, the two blocks being face-to-face in normal use of the rocking toy, so that the body can be opened out to form a flat mattress or cushion.

4. A rocking toy according to Claim 1 in which the recessed portion of upper surface of the body is adapted to interlock with a complementary upper surface of another foam body having an arcuate base surface, so that the two toys when interlocked form a resilient mattress, the arcuate base surfaces of the two interlocked foam bodies forming a substantially continuous edge surface of the mattress.

5. A rocking toy according to any one body has an outer covering of waterproof of the preceding Claims, in which the foam sheet material or fabric.

6. A rocking toy according to any one of the preceding Claims, having a shape resembling an animal.

7. A rocking toy substantially as herein described with reference to and as shown in Figure 1, or Figures 2 and 3, or Figures 4 and 5 of the drawings accompanying the Provisional Specification.

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2 SHEETS This dra is a reproduction of the Orig... on a reduced scale
Sheet 1

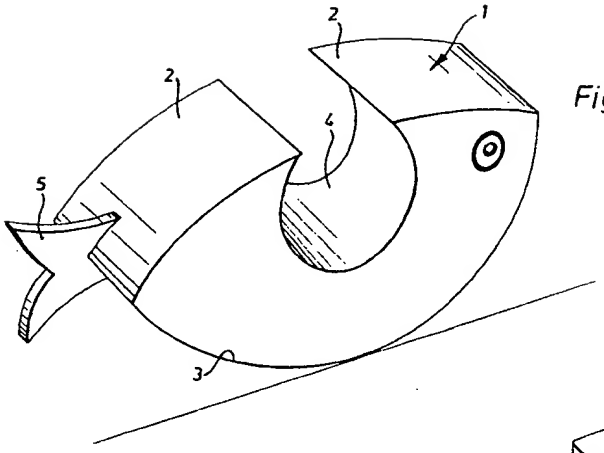

Fig.1.

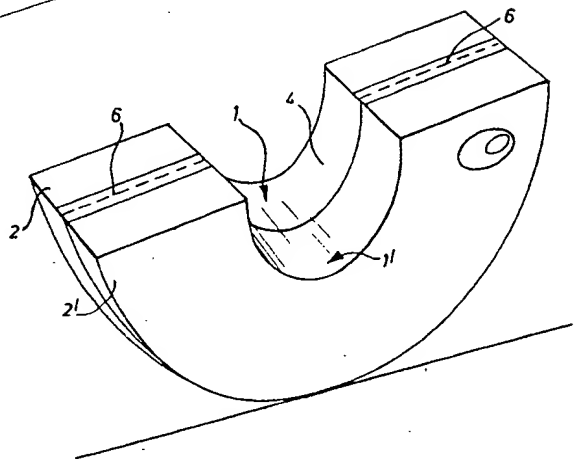

Fig.2.

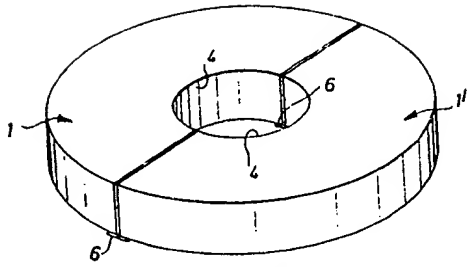

Fig. 3.

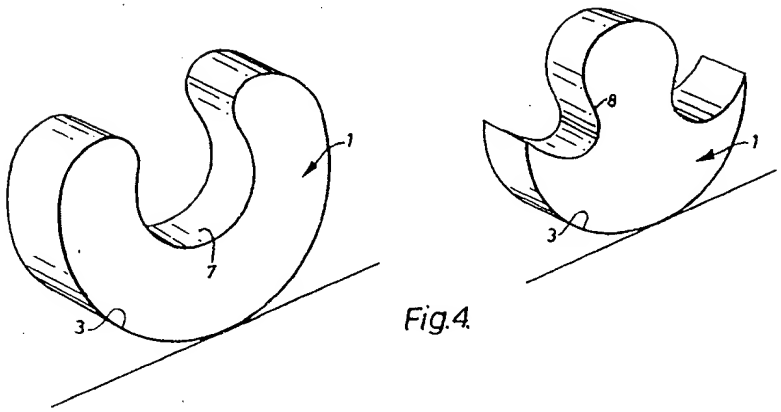

Fig.4.

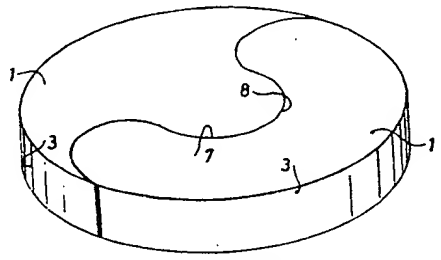

Fig.5.